IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Claim 18 remains cancelled. Please AMEND claims 6-8, and CANCEL claims 1-5 and 9-17 in accordance with the following:

1-5.   (CANCELLED)

6.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A management device to manage a share of costs related to network apparatuses, wherein each network apparatus is connected to a network, said management device comprising:

~~The management device according to claim 1,~~

a storing unit storing management information to classify each network apparatus based on a combination type, wherein said combination type is a type of a combination of business entities providing service to network apparatuses and corresponding shared costs of each of the business entities related to the providing of the network apparatuses, each network apparatus receiving the service from a business entity specified by said combination type;

a managing unit managing sharing of costs related to each network apparatus based on said combination type; and

~~said management device further comprises~~

a communicating unit receiving said combination type stored beforehand in a network apparatus with a network connection request from the network apparatus, ~~and~~ wherein

when said combination type is changed relative to each network apparatus, the combination type of each network apparatus stored in said management information is updated to ~~the~~ a combination type of the network apparatus subsequent to the change,

said managing unit compares said received combination type with the network apparatus combination type stored in said management information, and in the case of a match, sends to the network apparatus information corresponding to the combination type, and in a case that there is not a match, sends to the network apparatus information corresponding to the combination type stored in said management information, and furthermore, by sending to the network apparatus the combination type of the network apparatus subsequent to said change,

updates the combination type stored in the network apparatus to the combination type of <u>the</u> <u>network apparatus</u> subsequent to said change.

7.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) <u>A management device to manage a share of costs</u> <u>related to network apparatuses,</u> ~~The management device according to claim 1,~~ wherein each network apparatus is connected to a network,<u> said management device comprising:</u>

<u>a storing unit storing management information to classify each network apparatus based</u> <u>on a combination type, wherein said combination type is a type of a combination of business</u> <u>entities providing service to network apparatuses and corresponding shared costs of each of the</u> <u>business entities related to the providing of the network apparatuses, each network apparatus</u> <u>receiving the service from a business entity specified by said combination type;</u>

<u>a managing unit managing sharing of costs related to each network apparatus based on</u> <u>said combination type; and</u>

~~said management device further comprises~~

a communicating unit receiving said combination type sent from a network apparatus with a network connection request from the network apparatus<u>,</u>~~;~~ ~~and~~

<u>wherein</u> said managing unit compares said received combination type with the network apparatus combination type stored in said management information, and in the case of a match, sends to the network apparatus information corresponding, to the combination type, and in a case that there is not a match, sends to the network apparatus information corresponding to said received combination type, and furthermore, updates the network apparatus combination type stored in said management information to said received combination type.

8.   (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The management device according to claim 7, wherein, in a case that there is no said match, upon receiving predetermined temporary change information together with said combination type sent from the network apparatus, said communicating unit sends to the network apparatus information corresponding to said received combination type, and does not update said management information.

9-18.   (CANCELLED)

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